62 [1961]

The FLOWERING CRABAPPLES

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A DESCRIPTIVE LIST

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INTRODUCTION

Most of the Asiatic Flowering Crabs are immune or resistant to apple scab and cedar rust. The native crabs such as Ioensis and Coronaria and their double forms are susceptible, limiting their general usefullness. Ioensis Plena or Bechtel's is probably the worst offender where these diseases are a problem.

Some species are slower beginning to bloom. In general the native crabs, Spectabalis and Baccatas bloom later in life, while most of the Asiatics bloom very young, often as one year trees. This is due to the production of flower buds axially on vigorous one year shoots.

Most varieties with pumila parentage have "red" or purplish-red blossoms and purple or maroon fruits and purple tinge to leaves and wood. Many develop a dingy color as blossoms age.

The Baccatas generally have single white blossoms, bloom abundantly with age, are vigorous and hardy, and have bright red or yellow fruits.

Crabs with larger fruits, 1 inch and over, tend to bear on alternate years, and the fruits may become a nuisance. Large fruits more often become wormy and misshapen, and may litter the ground objectionably. Overloading of branches may also occur, causing breakage or spoil the form of the tree.

The chief pests of the crabs are mice, scale, red mites, and leaf eating caterpillars.

Mice may utilize old mole runs under sod or find shelter under heavily mulched trees. They may either girdle the trunk at or just below the ground or mulch level, or eat the bark from around the main roots. An occasional check should be made during the season.

Scale attacks the crabs as it does a great many other trees and shrubs but is more of a problem. Mites may occasionally become serious.

Leaf eating insects are the most frequent problem, as a number of kinds are common and have several generations a year. Use a poison spray when presence is observed.

Crown gall and root rot may take out established trees. Care should be taken to plant only trees without indication of a knot or gall on roots or at crown of the tree. Plants of the apple family are also subject to hairy root, caused by the same bacteria as crown gall. Individual apple understocks may be much more fibrous rooted than others, often forming a ring of fine roots near the ground line. Hairy root condition usually extends out along the main roots as mats or dense fringes of uniformly fine roots.

In planting, care should be taken to remove or straighten cross or circling roots which may later cause girdling of main roots or base of the tree. All suckers originating below the bud or down among the roots should be completely removed.

Set trees deeper than originally grown. A tree an inch or less in diameter should be set from one to six inches deeper. The deeper setting may be done if soil is reasonably light and well drained. Such a tree should root along the stem and should form fewer suckers from the roots or below the bud. The slower growing top of many crabs tends to induce suckering.

Crabs respond markedly to fertile soil, mulching and fertilization with earlier and more abundant flowering. A vigorous growing tree normally blooms much younger than a weak or retarded tree.

All members of the Malus family, including the crabs, are stunted and eventually killed if the roots of walnut trees come in contact with their root systems. Watch out for walnuts.

Weeping crabs have been omitted from the list, as we feel none are yet of sufficient merit. Red Jade (patented by Brooklyn Botanic Gardens) may prove of merit, particularly for its weeping habit of growth and very small coral red fruits.

The best of the following varieties will be marked with an asterisk. Some good ones not starred because too new or are subject to rust.

Red Jade (Patent No. 1497)
Introduced by Brooklyn Bontanic Gardens 1953. Tree of medium vigor with long slender, gracefully weeping branches, light green foliage and fragrant white blossoms on long stems. Blooms well while young. Small jade red fruits which hang late and are usually relished by the birds. Of interest for bloom, for graceful form and for very ornamental fruits.

Henry DuPont - New
(seedling of hybird arnold X eley) A slower growing variety with reddish green foliage and deep pink semi-double blossoms. Better fall foliage color than most of the crabs. Small dark red fruits persist into winter, retaining good color later than most others. Appear less susceptable to scab than other red flowered varieties. Blooms young. Orig: Arnold Arboretum 1946.

Mary Potter
(sargenti rosea X atrosanguinea) Broad rounded small tree or large shrub. Resembles Sargent except flowers and fruits are somewhat larger and plant is st ronger growing. Scab resistant dark green foliage resembling Sargent. Orig: Arnold Arboretum. 1939

VARIETY LIST

ADSTRINGENS (baccata x pumila)

Not a variety but any baccata x pumila cross. Hopa and Red Silver are two such crosses. There may be other selected individuals of merit.

** ALMEY (Rosybloom second generation baccata x Niedz.)

Morden, Manitoba—1945. Vigorous, hardy, tending to become quite open in form unless properly pruned. Blossoms bright red, free of purplish tinge, 2" with white center. Color holds well. One of the best reds to date. Blooms very young, on spurs and along vigorous one year shoots. Fruits small, tapering, ¾", brighter red than other red flowered crabs, and hanging late in fall. Best red to date.

* ARNOLD (floribunda x baccata)

Small tree or large shrub 12 to 15 feet, usually broader than high. Good foliage. Blossoms deep rose in bud, opening pink, fading to pure white, larger than floribunda. Blooms young, very abundantly and annually on spurs and heavily along one year shoots. Fruits small, tapering, yellow or old gold in color, on long stems. One of the best whites.

* ATROSANGUINEA—CARMINE CRAB (Halliana x Sieboldii)

Shrub or small tree to 12 or 15 feet and as broad. Foliage dense, dark green, glossy. Numerous slender branches with distinctly yellow bark on younger wood. Buds crimson, flowers medium to small, rose which fades little, very abundant. Contrasts well with taller white crabs. Fruits small, dull red, not effective. One of the less winter hardy sorts, occasionally killed back by temperatures -15 to -20 degrees.

BACCATA—SIBERIAN CRAB

From N. E. Asia and N. China. Very hardy. White flowers in abundance, very fragrant. Large tree to 50 feet. First crab to bloom. Varieties are better than species:

COLUMNARIS—One of the few columnar crabs. Slow growing. Fruits small, yellow to orange. Sometimes blights seriously.

GRACILIS—Small tree, pendant branches, fine foliage, pear shaped ⅜" red fruits. Blossoms 2", white, early, fragrant, very dense.

MANDSHURICA—Earliest of all crabs to bloom. Tree low, dense branched; fruit small, dark purple on long stems. Blooms very heavily. One of the best whites. Valued for its earliness.

*JACKI—From Korea. Neat small tree, compact, upright with sturdy twigs and unusually attractive smooth green foliage. Medium size, pure white blossoms, fragrant, in masses on long stems. Fruits ⅜" glossy dark red on long stems like small cherries. Fruits remain attractive later than most crabs, surviving considerable cold. Blooms young.

BEAUTY (Robusta seedling)

Good fastigiate medium size tree. Outstanding in fruit. White blossoms, good foliage, showy, edible, bright red fruits, 1¼". Slow reaching bearing age. Dual purpose.

BOB WHITE (Zumi seedling)

Small tree or large shrub to 18 feet, dense, rounded. Cherry buds, white blossoms, small (1") fragrant. Fruits ½" yellow, persistant. Fruits valued as winter food for birds.

CORONARIA—WILD SWEET CRAB

Native New York to Alabama and Missouri. Blossoms pink and white. Subject to scab and cedar rust. Three double varieties:

CHARLOTTE — Medium size tree to 30 feet. Smooth silvery bark, large glossy leaves. Blooms on spurs only. Blossoms large (2") fragrant, very double, open flat, pendant in clusters on long stems. Fruits 1½" dark green. Better form and foliage than species, often brilliant fall color.

NIEUWLANDIANA—Similar to Charlotte, somewhat slower growing and slightly smaller, less glossy foliage, numerous sharp spurs.

Blossoms large, deeper pink, fragrant, in clusters on spurs, somewhat less double, looser petal arrangement.

KLEHMS—Combines best points of Charlotte and Nieuwland. Intermediate in vigor and size. Larger glossier foliage than Nieuwland. Blossoms have rose-like form of Charlotte and deeper pink color of Nieuwland. Appears to be the best of the three.

DOLGO (baccata seedling from Russia)

Hardy, medium vigor, rather upright tree. Blossoms white, on spurs, fragrant, 1½". Fruits 1¼', conical, brilliant red changing to very dark red, showy from last of July until September, when fruits begin to drop. Fruits make excellent jelly. Good dual purpose crab, more outstanding for its fruits than for its bloom. Showiest of all in fruit.

** DOROTHEA (chance seedling, Parkman x Arnold (?))

Rounded, dense branching tree of good vigor, to 25 feet. Blossoms semi-double, bright crimson to rose, with darker buds. Does not fade. Blooms very young, regularly, and very freely, both on spurs and vigorous one year wood. Growth long and arching, somewhat open on young trees. Fruits ⅝", turning bright yellow late in fall and hanging through winter. One of the finest varieties, new or old; an arresting spot of color when in bloom.

* FLORIBUNDA—JAPANESE FLOWERING CRAB

Introduced from Japan 1862. Vigorous, rounded, dense branching crab to 25' with good foliage and picturesque form. Blossoms medium size 1-1½", buds deep pink or red, flowers pink fading to white. Fruit small, red and yellow, rather effective. One of our oldest kinds but never excelled in abundance or dependability of bloom. Blooms very young.

**HALLIANA PARKMANI—PARKMAN CRAB

From Japan in 1861. Shrub or small tree 15', slow growing, tending to branch low and form upright vase shape. Leaves narrow, leathery, dark green. Blossoms double, a clear bright pink, on long stems. Fruits very small, dull red, inconspicuous. Said to be least hardy at Arnold Arboretum, but seems to be more hardy than Scheidecker and Carmine in midwest. A neat small tree for limited space, blooming a little later in life but one of the daintiest and most beautiful of the crabs. The conspicuous expanding blossom buds are attractive long before they open, extending the effective period materially. One of the finest.

* HOPA (Niedz. x baccata)

Vigorous tree to 30', dense, upright while young, spreading with age, marked tendency to produce suckers along main branches. Blossoms 1½", rose color, abundant on spurs and vigorous one year shoots. Fruits ¾", orange and red, good for jelly or preserves. Still one of the most satisfactory varieties with two seasons of interest, although some object to lavendar cast of blossoms.

**HUPEHENSIS—TEA CRAB (Syn. theifera)

From China in 1907. Tree to 24', moderate vigor, distinctly vase shaped with long, stiff spurred but unbranched limbs, spreading like ribs of a fan. Most picturesque of any crab. Wood hard and brittle, sometime subject to breakage from ice. Blossoms are pink in bud, opening white, 1½", fragrant, in garlands along the long branches. Fruit small, red, fairly effective. Sometimes blights seriously. One of the most effective white flowering crabs, particularly as a specimen.

IOENSIS—PRAIRIE CRAB (Native West of Miss. River to Wis.)

Small to medium tree, blossoms pale pink, very fragrant.
Variety:

PLENA - BECHTEL'S CRAB

Very double form. Tree round headed, may reach 30' usually much

less. Beautiful in bloom with large rose-like pale pink, very double blossoms 2" or more, and very fragrant. These may be seriously browned in hot windy weather. Most of the year the tree is not ornamental as foliage is particularly subject to scab and cedar rust and varying degrees of defoliation. Illinois University has a selection slightly less double but deeper pink which seems less subject to leaf troubles and promises to be equally effective.

JAY DARLING

This may or may not be the same as the Eley offered by many nurseries. Identical for practical use.

** KATHERINE (seedling, probably Halliana x baccata)

Tree of moderate vigor, eventually 20'; slender branches and dark green foliage. Blossoms large (2¾") double, light pink fading to clear white. Fruit small greenish red, inconspicuous. Blooms very abundantly as a small tree, along all vigorous one year wood. May be alternate in some sections, but not with us. Introduced 1943 and well worth trial, especially as a potted flowering tree.

KINGSMERE (sieboldii x Niedz.)

Hybrid of Miss Preston. Blossom bright pink. Medium vigor, hardy, spreading, selected for its annual and abundant bloom. Fruits ⅞" dull red. One of the better Canadian introductions. Blight sometimes serious.

MADGEBURG (spectabalis x pumila)

From Germany before 1900. Tree somewhat open, rounded, to 30', resembling a double flowering apple in form and manner of blossoming. Blossoms in clusters, pink with suggestion of orchid, single and semi-double. Fruit 1¼", red and yellow, crab flavor, probably good spiced. Sometimes subject to blight.

*MICROMALUS—MIDGET CRAB (Spectabalis x baccata?)

Syn. Kaido crab. From Japan 1856. Upright shrub or small tree. Dense with many slender upright branches, to 20'. Good foliage. Blossoms 1½", bright pink, single, fragrant. Fruit greenish yellow, ⅝", not showy. Begins to bloom young. Blooms very freely and is one of the earliest pinks. Tendency to bloom heavily on alternate years.

PRINCE GEORGES (ioensis plena x angustifolia?)

About 1930. Tree of medium vigor and size to 25'. Symmetrical, dense branched tree with thorn-like spurs. Leaves resemble ioensis but more narrow. Blossoms large more double than Bechtel, light pink, more carnation like in arrangement, fragrant. Last of the crabs to bloom in spring. Blossoms in heavy clusters on long pendant stems. A little slow beginning to bloom. Being of native parentage, is susceptible to scab and rust.

PUMILA NIEDZWETZKYANA—REDVEIN CRAB

S. W. Siberia, introduced U. S. 1896. Important chiefly because much used in hybridizing. Resembles purpurea except 2½" fruit shape of a Delicious apple, really an apple. Vigorous, rather open tree blooming on spurs.

PURPUREA—PURPLE CRAB (Niedz. x atrosanguinea)

Vigorous tree with glossy dark purplish green foliage. Ultimately 25-30', dense, rounded tree. Blossoms purplish red, somewhat dingy, but of value as the earliest red flowering variety, and for its great abundance of bloom annually. Fruits ¾" purplish, not conspicuous. Varieties:

*PURPUREA—ALDENHAM (pumila Niedz. x atrosanguinea)

A selection of purpurea introduced in U. S. by Arnold Arboretum in 1923. Tree vigorous, rounded, to 25', with arching branches and dark green foliage. Fruits ¾ to 1", dull red. Blossoms single and semi-

double 2" on long stems. Blooms young, regularly, very abundantly on spurs and along one year shoots. Slightly later than Eley, darker red, and blooms over a comparatively long period. More dependable for bloom than Eley. Fruits not too conspicuous because of dark color. Preferred to Eley by some.

*PURPUREA—ELEYI (From England, probably purpurea seedl.)

Confused in the trade with Jay Darling. Vigorous tree, rounded, dark green foliage, blooms young, but not as freely or regularly as Aldenham until older. Blossoms large, single, purplish pink. Fruits red, ¾". Possibly not as good as some of the newer varieties but very popular at present. Good form and foliage, effective in fruit.

PURPUREA—LEMOINE (from France)

Darkest foliage of the purpurea selections, glossy green. Tree smaller, more upright than other purpurea selections. Blossoms slightly darker than Eley, fruits dull purplish red. Often very slow beginning to bloom, sometimes 6 to 10 years. Smaller tree than other purpurea selections.

REDFIELD (Wolf River apple x Niedz.)

Actually a flowering apple. Tree vigorous, rounded, foliage reddish-green changing to green. Blossoms deep pink, large, in clusters on spurs. Fruits 2 to 2¼", red with red flesh. Slow in beginning to bloom as are some apples. Fruits excellent for jellies, pies and sauce.

REDFORD (Wolf River apple x Niedz.)

Vigorous flowering apple, rounded tree. Sister to Redfield. Blossoms a little lighter but deep pink, with broad petals, effective in bloom. Begins to bloom second or third year. Fruits purplish red or maroon from time quite small until maturity in late fall when they may reach 2½" in diameter. Flesh red, excellent for jelly, pies, sauce. Size of fruit and necessity for spraying to control worms may be objectionable.

RED SILVER (baccata x Niedz.)

Vigorous, dense tree with reddish green foliage, to 30'. Blooms young, abundantly and on both spurs and one year wood. Blossoms crepe like, dull red, not offering desirable contrast with reddish new foliage. Fruits ½", purplish red or maroon. Not outstanding.

*SARGENTI—SARGENT CRAB—(from Japan in 1892)

A true shrub, 6-8', rounded, dense branching, thorn-like spurs. Foliage glossy, dark green. Blossoms small (½") white, fragrant, only on spurs. Fruit ¼", dark red, effective in fall, hanging into the winter. Excellent winter food for birds. Slow growing. One of few crabs coming true from seed. Understock may send up suckers from roots. Lowest of the crabs. Often brilliant yellow fall foliage.

*SCHEIDECKER (floribunda x prunifolia)

Originated in Germany before 1888. Shrub or small tree to 20', dense, upright. Blooms very young, abundantly. Blossoms double, 1½", pale bright pink on spurs and along vigorous shoots. Fruits ½" bright yellow, dropping before winter. A little less hardy than some others. An old variety but still good. Few kinds bloom as heavily while very small. Requires little space.

SPECTABALIS—CHINESE CRAB (known in England 1750)

Single or semi-double pink blossoms on long stems. Fruits green. The following double varieties most common in trade.

*SPECTABALIS ALBA PLENA—Tree vigorous, upright spreading, eventually rather flattened top. Resembles an apple somewhat, but blooms both on spurs and vigorous terminal shoots. Blossoms short stemmed, very double, large (2") in prominent clusters. Fruits yellow and red, 1¼". Flavor suggests an apple more than crab. Does not

bloom heavily until older than most crabs but then blooms regularly and is very effective. One of best large whites.

SPECTABALIS RIVERSI—Rivers Crab (syn. rosea-plena)
From England before 1883. Tree more upright, with narrower crotches and sturdier branches. Leaves larger, darker green than alba plena. Blossoms double, larger than alba plena, pink. More than one form under this name in arboretums.

TORINGOIDES—CUTLEAF CRAB

Upright, pyrimidal tree of medium size, rather slow growing, with deeply lobed small leaves and slender branches. Blossoms small, white, fragrant. Fruits small, pear shaped, bright yellow and red, attractive. Ordinary for bloom, valued for fruits. Tree more susceptible to blight than most others.

**VAN ESELTINE (Arnold x Spectabalis)

From Geneva (N. Y.) Exp. Sta. A small to medium sized, slow growing tree, with glossy green somewhat wrinkled leaves. Blossoms semi-double to double, glistening medium pink, large, on long stems, produced in bottle brush fashion along vigorous terminal shoots as well as spurs. Fruits ¾", yellowish, not too showy. This variety often blooms first year, a small tree upright while young but branches later spreading with weight of fruits. In bloom it is one of the most beautiful of all the crabs and will certainly become very popular when better known. Blight sometimes serious.

*ZUMI CALOCARPA—REDBUD CRAB

A large bush or small tree to 15', densely branching, upright spreading. Foliage stiff, dark green, with deep lobes resembling Sargent. Blossoms small (1") white, pink in bud, more fragrant than most. Blooms young, and very freely with age. Fruits small, ⅜", bright red, very abundant. Very effective from time leaves yellow in fall, 'till freezing weather. Fruits persist and furnish winter food for birds. Should not be confused with the more vigorous Zumi, which is more pyramidal and tree like, with leaves of shoots seldom or slightly lobed. Fall foliage often brilliant yellow.

RECENTLY INTRODUCED VARIETIES

CRIMSON BRILLIANT (patent No. 939, originated by Mr. den Boer of Des Moines, Iowa, and introduced by Wayside Gardens, Mentor, Ohio).

A medium sized tree with large, purplish green leaves. Grows vigorously as a young tree, then slows. Blossoms resemble Eley, but single and semi-double and the effect said to be definitely better than Eley. Almost the only semi-double red crab and first crab patented. Considered very fine.

IRENE

Also originated by Mr. den Boer, a sister to Crimson Brilliant, with similar very dark foliage and similar colored single flowers. Tree more dwarf in form.

PURPLE WAVE

Darker foliage than Crimson Brilliant with similar but single blossoms, red, fragrant; broad and low in form of growth, very hardy. Fruits ¾", purplish. Some Iowa nurserymen rate this selection very highly. Best low growing purple leaf crab. Foliage heavy, deepest purple of any.

PATRICIA (Hopa seedling, also a den Boer selection)

Resembles Hopa in blossoms, perhaps a little better. Form upright spreading or fan like, with wider stronger crotches than Hopa and not the tendency to sucker profusely. Fruit larger than Hopa, 1", red. May be better than Hopa.

EVELYN (den Boer selection, Ioensis seedling)

Typically ioensis in form and leaf, but dense dark green foliage with purplish cast. Tree symmetrical, vigorous, well branched, resistant to scab and cedar rust. Blossoms small (1"), broad petals, deep pink, fragrance of ioensis and said to bloom very freely with a little age. Occasional bloom on one year trees. Fruits 1", dull red. Promising because of form, foliage, and fragrance not found in other red sorts.

MARSHALL OYAMA

Little known, introduced U. S., 1930. Tree of medium vigor, sturdy, probably to 18', most narrowly upright of the crabs. Large pinkish white blossoms. Fruits 1", bright red and yellow. Of value because of its very upright form in addition to bloom and fruits.

SARGENT ROSEA (Pink Bud Sargent)

Resembles Sargent but more vigorous, with larger blossoms and deeper pink buds.

HENRIETTA CROSBY—(Arnold Arboretum No. 19039) Niedzwetzkyana hybrid. Vigorous, rather broad tree of purpurea type. Blossoms rose red. Blooms young and freely. Fruits reddish purple ¾", effective.

ARNOLD ARBORETUM No. 33340

Sargent astracanica cross. Many Sargent traits, but grows larger and has large bright clear pink flowers. Considered promising.

*PINK BEAUTY (M.451)

Abundant bright pink flowers, medium to large, without magenta tinge. Fruits effective, ⅞", bright red, coloring early and dropping early fall. Tree medium size broad upright, sturdy branches. Blooms usually at one year. Promising.

MORDEN 19-85

Buds deep red, opening late to small deep pink flowers. Purplish green foliage. Fruits small, maroon with heavy purplish bloom. Small, upright tree.

MORDEN 457—Tree of medium vigor, resembling Hopa in form but a smaller tree. Leaves reddish green changing to dark green, unusually glossy. Blooms profusely while very young. Blossoms bright rose, resembling Hopa, large on long stems. Fruits ¾" glossy purplish red, effective over a longer period than almost any other crab. Promising.

VC-4

Selection of Northwest Nursery Co., Valley City, N. D. Vigorous tree, medium size, bright pink flowers contrasting well with expanding foliage. Leaves small, narrow, with all season purple cast resembling purple leaf plum. Fruits small, maroon. Better foliage than Red Silver and much more effective in bloom.

PRAIRIE ROSE (U. of Illinois Ioensis No. 825)

Deep pink, double, carnation-like flowers. Fragrance of Bechtel and deeper pink. Foliage somewhat more disease resistant. Tree small pyramidal while young. Worthy of trial.

STRATHMORE — Modern introduction. Narrow, upright, densely branched tree of medium size. Foliage rather small, with reddish cast all summer. Fruits ¾" purple. Blossoms purplish red, retaining color well.

TANNER—A true miniature. A neat pyramidal tree with close set small leaves, large pure white blossoms and tiny ⅜" red fruits on long stems. Should bloom well at two years.

Our Aim—to offer the best varieties, new and old, as well as lesser known ones considered worthy of trial.

We Sell only stock grown by us.

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Every Effort made to assure trueness to name.